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Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 12 and 13. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

Claims 1. - 7. (Cancelled).

8. (Previously presented) A billiard cue comprising:
a shaft including a wood core and a skin of composite material, the wood having a density below about 9 grams per cubic inch.
9. (Previously presented) The billiard cue of Claim 8, wherein the composite material includes fibers in a binder.
10. (Previously presented) The billiard cue of Claim 8, wherein the wood has a density below about 8 grams per cubic inch.
11. (Previously presented) The billiard cue of Claim 8, wherein the wood is Sitka spruce.
12. (Currently Amended) ~~The billiard cue of Claim 8;~~ A billiard cue comprising:
a shaft including a wood core and a skin of composite material, the wood having a density below about 9 grams per cubic inch, wherein the skin of composite material has
thickness that varies along a length of the shaft.
13. (Currently Amended) ~~The billiard cue of Claim 8;~~ A billiard cue comprising:
a shaft including a wood core and a skin of composite material, the wood having a density below about 9 grams per cubic inch, wherein the skin of the composite material has
thickness that varies continuously along a length of the shaft from a thinner skin toward a front end to a thicker skin toward a back end.

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14. (Previously presented) The billiard cue of Claim 8, further comprising:
watertight capping material to prevent exposure of the wood core to water.